

The background is a solid blue gradient. A thin, light blue curved line starts from the top left and arcs towards the right side. On the right side, there is a darker blue triangular shape pointing towards the center.

# **Evolving Partnerships – Building Together : *Medical Reserve Corps in Minnesota***

*April 2005*



# Recognizing the Need

- Public Health Preparedness planning begun
- Approach: local and regional planning
- Emergency PH workforce must include volunteers
- Lists of interested volunteers after 9/11



# A Picture worth 1000 words





# SARS in Toronto 2003

- 2,000 case investigations
- 23,000 people identified as contacts
- 13,374 placed in quarantine
- 300,000 calls received on the hotline
- 47,567 calls on the highest single day
- 200 staff working on the SARS hotline.



# Regional help for local planning

- Hennepin County receives OSG MRC grant
- Metro PH preparedness planners, State Departments of Health and Homeland Security, U of Minnesota invited to plan
- Focus groups of stakeholders →  
Planning subgroups: Recruitment/Retention, Enrollment/Credentialing, Training, and Deployment



# MRC Growth in MN

- Six counties assisting in Hennepin County planning decided to start local MRCs and registered with the OSG
- Second year OSG funding to Steele Co.



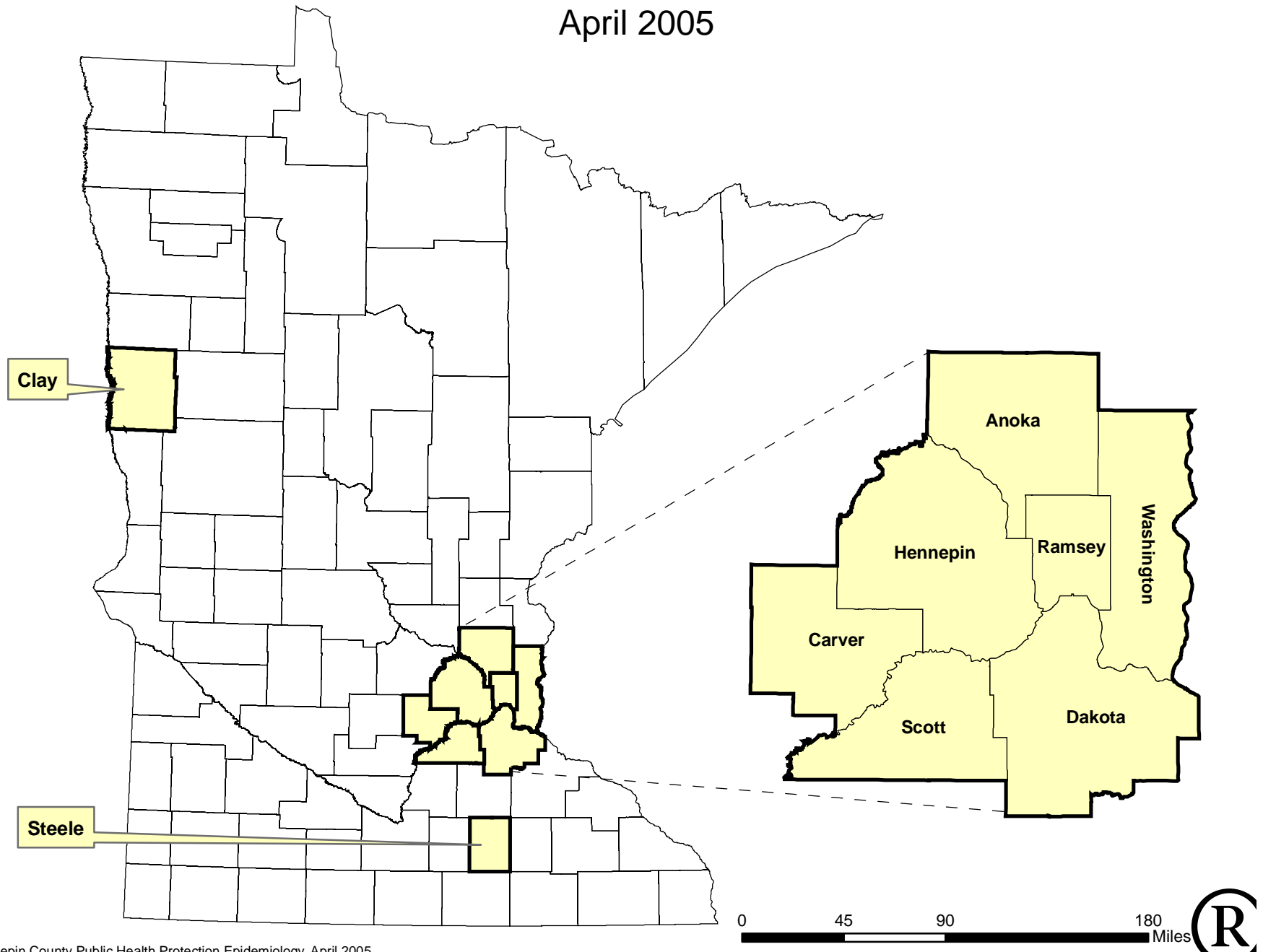
## MRC Growth in MN cont.

- MN Citizen Corps funding supporting 2 metro counties and Clay Co in rural MN
- U of M developing a MRC
- Sharing resources and materials



# Medical Reserve Corps in Minnesota

April 2005





# MRC Coordinators Group

- Meets monthly to coordinate planning
- Sharing tools and learnings
- Supporting new MRCs
- Working on regional deployment plans
- Working with State of Minnesota to coordinate MRCs with the State Registry



## **MRC Coordinators Group cont.**

- Coordinating recruitment efforts
- Subgroups: Marketing and recruitment, Training, Deployment
- Projects: liability, scheduling database



# Minnesota Department of Health and MRCs

- Developing common vision to build seamless state & local system – still in progress
- On-line application into MDH Registry – linked to local websites (some)
- County/Regional Public Health to receive data via download from MDH Registry



# Minnesota Department of Health and MRCs

- Locals contact applicants from their jurisdiction, train, exercise, cover for liability and activate
- Regional and State Coordinators to be informed when MRCs activated



# Local Variability

- Most MRCs within County public health
- Some partnering – with local emergency management or local volunteer program
- Some developing a regional MRC



## **Local Variability cont.**

- University of MN MRC for students, faculty, and staff of the Academic Health Center – will assist counties
- Local autonomy to agree to or modify policy decisions, use common materials, etc.







# Challenges

- At different stages of development
- Some funded, some not
- Working across different organizational structures and governmental jurisdictions



## Challenges cont.

- Variable internal structures, databases, etc.
- Always evolving - new inputs continue (e.g. ESAR-VHP, new administrative needs)
- Community differences (size, population, rural/urban, etc.)



# Exciting Opportunities

- Pooling resources. Sharing best practices and materials.
- Working together on:
  - Common recruitment materials
  - Approaching professional organizations
  - Training modules
  - Common deployment guidelines



# Exciting Opportunities cont.

- Developing hospital relationships
- Liability and database issues
- Supporting new communities to develop MRCs
- Coordinating with the State Registry



# Medical Reserve Corps in Minnesota

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Clay County
- Dakota County
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County
- Steele County
- University of MN
- Washington County
- City of Rogers (Hennepin)
- MN Veterinary MRC



# Thank You!

- Brochures and samples available
- Email or call with questions

Kathryn Cook (952) 351-5262

Kathryn.Cook@co.hennepin.mn.us



# MRC Coordinators' Contacts

- MRC of Anoka County  
[mrc-anoka@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:mrc-anoka@co.anoka.mn.us)
- MRC of Carver County  
[www.co.carver.mn.us/CHS/ems.asp](http://www.co.carver.mn.us/CHS/ems.asp)
- MRC of Clay County  
[cheryl.sapp@co.clay.mn.us](mailto:cheryl.sapp@co.clay.mn.us)
- MRC of Dakota County  
[www.co.dakota.mn.us/public\\_health](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/public_health)
- MRC of Hennepin County  
[mrc-hennepin@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:mrc-hennepin@co.hennepin.mn.us)  
[www.mrc-hennepin.org](http://www.mrc-hennepin.org)



# MRC Coordinators' Contacts (cont.)

- MRC of Ramsey County  
[mrc-ramsey@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:mrc-ramsey@co.ramsey.mn.us)  
[www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/mrc](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/mrc)
- MRC of Scott County  
[jfleming@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:jfleming@co.scott.mn.us)
- MRC of Steele County  
[louise.troyer@co.steele.mn.us](mailto:louise.troyer@co.steele.mn.us)
- MRC of Washington County  
[www.volunteercvs.org](http://www.volunteercvs.org) (Community Volunteer Services)
- MRC of the University of Minnesota  
[berg0031@umn.edu](mailto:berg0031@umn.edu)